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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

SUMMARY

The present report contains three draft decisions calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would grant consultative status to 87 non-governmental organizations.

By draft decision II, the Council would grant Roster status to 70 non-governmental organizations, pursuant to Council decision 1996/302.

By draft decision III, the Council would approve the issuance of the Committee's documentation in all the official languages of the Council.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides to grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

General consultative status*

Academic Council on the United Nations System

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Association of Non-Governmental Organizations

Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale

Environmental Development in the Third World (ENLF)

Foundation for the Support of the United Nations, Inc.

Good Neighbours International

Humane Society of the United States

Médecins du monde international

Union of Arab Banks

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

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* See Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, which contains an update of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations set out in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, in particular paragraphs 22-24 of the updated arrangements. "General consultative status" and "special consultative status" correspond to "category I" and "category II" referred to in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

Special consultative status*

African Institute for Democracy

Alliance for Arab Women

American Civil Liberties Union

Arab Network for Environment and Development

Art of Living Foundation

Association for the Prevention of Torture

Association François-Xavier Bagnoud

Association haïtienne d'aide aux enfants nécessiteux et au relèvement des communes de l'Artibonite

Association tunisienne des mères

Beth Chabad - International Jewish Educational and Cultural Network

Catholic Institute for International Relations

Center for Justice and International Law

Centre for Social Research

Centre for the Study of Administration of Relief

Centro de Estudios Europeos

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic

Chernobyl Union International

Communities Forestry and Social Development Organization

Comunicación Cultural

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Dogal Hayati Koruma Dernegi (Society for the Protection of Nature)

European Federation of Older Students at Universities

European Intermodal Association

European Network of Policewomen

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos

Federation of European Motorcyclists

Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone

Forest Alliance of British Columbia

Fraternité Notre Dame, Inc.

Hope Worldwide

Institute of Social Studies Trust

Inter-African Network for Human Rights and Development

International Academy of Astronautics

International Association for Democracy in Africa

International Association of Peace Messenger Cities

International Association of Sheriff Officers and Judicial Officers

International Council of Prison Medical Services

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People

International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development

International Lactation Consultant Association

International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre

Mahila Dakshata Samiti

MATCH International Centre

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos

National Society for Human Rights

National Space Society

Nature Conservancy, The

Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development

Organisation mondiale des experts-conseils arbitres

Peace Education Foundation

Rehab Group

Solar Cookers International

South North Development Initiative

Sulabh International

Together Foundation for Global Unity

Union Arabischer Mediziner in Europa (ARABMED)

Woods Hole Research Center

Word of Life Christian Fellowship

World Council of Independent Christian Churches

Roster

American Forest and Paper Association

Black Women's Agenda, Inc.

Centro de Estudios sobre Asia y Oceania

European Natural Gas Vehicle Association

Fondation La Providence

Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts

Hawaii Association of International Buddhists

Human Service Alliance

International Council on Metals and the Environment

International Cremation Federation

International Rastafari Development Society

Margaret Sanger Centre International

National Rifle Association of America/Institute for Legislative Action

DRAFT DECISION II

Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302

The Economic and Social Council decides to grant Roster status to the following non-governmental organizations:

Arab Urban Development Institute

Asociación Cultural Sejekto de Costa Rica

Asociación Kunas Unidos por Nabguana

Association of World Citizens

Association tunisienne pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement

Canadian Council for International Cooperation

Canadian Forestry Association

Center for Development of International Law

Center for Respect of Life and Environment

Central Florida Earth Alliance/Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice

Centre de recherche et d'information pour le développement

Centre for Environmental and Management Studies

Centre for Respect of Life and Environment

Citizens Alliance for Saving the Atmosphere and the Earth

Citizens Network for Sustainable Development

Commonweal

Convocatoría para la Defensa Ambiental

Council on International and Public Affairs

Country Women Association of Nigeria

Development Alternatives

Energy, Technology and the Environment (ETE 21)

Environmental Investigation Agency

Family Planning Association of Pakistan

Federación de Organizaciónes y Juntas Ambientalistas de Venezuela

Forum maghrebin pour l'environnement et de développement

Forum of African Voluntary Development Organizations

Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development

Fundaçao Museu do Homem Americano

Fundación Hernandiana

Fundación la Era Agricola

Fundación Neotrópica

Fundación para la Defensa del Ambiente

Group for Study and Defence of Ecosystems of the Lower and Middle Amazon Regio

Indian Committee of Youth Organizations

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Instituto de Açao Cultural

Instituto de Analises Sociais e Economicas (IBASE)

Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute)

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

International Court of the Environment

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

International Institute for Sustainable Development

International Network for Environmental Management

Les Ami(e)s de la Terre

Netherlands National Committee for IUCN

Non-Governmental Committee on UNICEF

People's Commission on Environment and Development India

Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement

Pollution Probe

Red de Ecología Social

Réseau africain pour le développement

Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Société marocaine pour le droit de l'environnement

Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment

Southern California Ecumenical Council/Ecology Task Force

Stockholm Environment Institute

Tata Energy Research Institute

Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations

UNED-UK/United Nations Environment and Development - United Kingdom Committee

United Methodist Church/General Board of Church Society

United Methodist Church/General Board of Global Ministries

United Nations Association in Canada

United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United Nations Association of the USA

Verification Technology Information Centre

War on Want - Campaign Against World Poverty

Working Women's Forum (India)

World Conservation Monitoring Centre

World Federalist Association

World Wide Fund for Nature (Malaysia)

DRAFT DECISION III

Documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides that the documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will be issued in all six official languages of the Council, from within the existing resources.

II. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

2. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 592nd to 601st meetings, from 13 to 17 May, its 602nd to 611th meetings, from 26 to 30 August, and its 612th and 613th meetings, on 2 October 1996.

A. Application for consultative status deferred from the 1995 session of the Committee and application referred back to the Committee by the Economic and Social Council

3. At its resumed 1995 session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to defer further consideration of the application of the International Energy Foundation until its 1996 session (see E/1996/17, para. 5).

4. At its 610th meeting, on 30 August 1996, the Committee decided to defer further consideration of the application of the International Energy Foundation until its 1997 session.

5. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, had decided to refer back to the Committee the application of the International Committee of Peace and Human Rights (see A/50/3/Rev.1, chap. X, para. 11). At its 599th meeting, on 16 May, the Committee took note of a letter from the organization stating that it would be appropriate for the Committee to suspend consideration of the application of the International Committee of Peace and Human Rights, without prejudice, for one year.

B. New applications for consultative status

6. At its 595th meeting, on 14 May, the Committee decided that the Centre for the Advancement of North Korean Human Rights should be invited to reapply at a future date on the basis of a new questionnaire.

7. At its 596th meeting, on 15 May, the Committee took note of a communication from the Centro de Estudios sobre América, stating that the organization did not wish to have its application considered during the first part of the 1996 session. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to ascertain from the organization whether it wished its application to be considered at the second part of the 1996 session or at the 1997 session. The Committee was subsequently

informed that the organization wished its application to be considered at the 1997 session.

8. At its 599th meeting, on 16 May, the Committee decided that the Developing Countries Society could reapply for consultative status at a future session of the Committee on the basis of a new questionnaire.

9. At the 600th meeting, on 17 May, a proposal was made by the representative of the United States of America to defer consideration of the application of the Centro de Estudios sobre Asia y Oceania to the second part of the 1996 session of the Committee.

10. Subsequently, a motion of no action was made by the representative of Cuba.

11. Following statements by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland and China, the representative of Cuba withdrew his motion of no action and requested that a recorded vote be taken on the proposal of the representative of the United States of America, which was rejected by 11 votes to 5, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Chile, China, Cuba, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sudan.

Abstaining: Costa Rica.

12. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and India.

13. The representative of the United States of America then requested a vote on the proposal to recommend the granting of Roster status to the Centro de Estudios sobre Asia y Oceania, which was approved by 12 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

14. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, the Philippines and Ethiopia.

15. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested a vote on the proposal to recommend the granting of consultative status, category II (special consultative status), to the Centro de Estudios Europeos. The proposal was approved by 11 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

16. After the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

17. At its 601st meeting, on 17 May, the Committee decided to invite the Fondation Foi et Espérance to reapply for consultative status at the 1997 session on the basis of a new questionnaire.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite the Caribbean Women's Health Institute to reapply for consultative status at a future session on the basis of a new questionnaire. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to inform the organization of the possibility of applying for association with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

19. At its 604th meeting, on 27 August, the Committee, noting the recent date of establishment of the International Society for Human Rights, decided that the organization should be invited to reapply for consultative status at the 1997 session on the basis of a new questionnaire.

20. At its 606th meeting, on 28 August, the Committee noted that the Society for Urban and Rural Advancement had informed the Secretariat that it wished to be considered at the 1997 session of the Committee in order to update the questionnaire.

21. At its 607th meeting, on 28 August, the Committee was informed by the Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples that the organization wished to withdraw its application for consultative status.

22. At the 608th meeting, on 29 August, the representative of the Russian Federation, in agreeing to join in the consensus of the Committee to recommend the granting of special consultative status to the Woods Hole Research Center, stated that he would have preferred that Roster status be recommended, given the specialized nature of the activities of the organization.

23. Also at the 608th meeting, a proposal was made by the representative of the United States of America to defer consideration of the application of the Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba requested that a recorded vote be taken on the proposal of the representative of the United States of America, which was rejected by 9 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Sudan.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Ireland, Madagascar, Paraguay, Philippines, Tunisia.

25. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

26. The representative of the United States of America then requested a vote on the proposal to recommend the granting of special consultative status, to the Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos, which was approved by a roll-call vote of 7 to 2, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, India, Paraguay, Russian Federation.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Chile, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Philippines, Sudan, Tunisia.

27. Statements were made by the representatives of Ireland, Cuba, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Tunisia, the Sudan, Ethiopia, India, the Philippines and the Russian Federation.

28. At its 609th meeting, on 29 August, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the application of Felege Guihon International to its 1997 session.

29. At its 610th meeting, on 30 August, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the applications of the Citizens Disaster Response Centre Foundation, Inc. and Eagle Forum to its 1997 session.

30. Also at the 610th meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation, in agreeing to join in the consensus of the Committee to recommend the granting of special consultative status to the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, stated that he did not feel that the organization's structure completely corresponded to the requirements of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, and it would therefore have been preferable to recommend Roster status.

31. At the 611th meeting, on 30 August, the representative of Cuba stated that his delegation had not broken the consensus to include the National Rifle Association on the Roster, but it nevertheless continued to have doubts about the merits of the organization to enter into that kind of relationship with the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31. He still thought that the organization should establish its relationship with the United Nations through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat.

32. At the same meeting, the Committee decided that the Foundation for Democracy in Africa should be invited to reapply in 1997 on the basis of a new questionnaire. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to inform the organization of the possibility of applying for association with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

33. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the applications of the following organizations to its 1997 session:

Christians for Crime Prevention (GCFK/CFCP)

Covcas Centre for Law and Conflict Resolution

Deprived Child and You

Forum of African Voluntary Development Organizations (FAVDO)**

Foundation for Research on International Environment, National Development and Security (FRIENDS)

Publication and Coordination Centre of Islamic Ideology and Sufism

Rivers Club

Rutherford Institute

34. At the 612th meeting, on 2 October, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the application of the World League for Freedom and Democracy to its 1997 session.

35. At the 613th meeting, on 2 October, the observer for Namibia made a statement regarding the Committee's recommendation that the Economic and Social Council grant special consultative status to the National Society for Human Rights. The Committee looks forward to the Government of Namibia having an opportunity, at the resumed substantive session of 1996 of the Economic and Social Council, to provide its views on issues concerning the application of the National Society for Human Rights.

36. During the 1996 session, the following nine organizations requested that the terms "Taiwan" or "Republic of China (Taiwan)" in their original applications be corrected and replaced by "Taiwan Province of China": Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Good Neighbours International, Human Service Alliance, Humane Society of the United States, International Academy of Astronautics, Art of Living Foundation, International Lactation Consultant Association, World Council of Independent Christian Churches and World League for Freedom and Democracy. The World Council of Independent Christian Churches deleted the People's Republic of China from its membership list.

37. The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council grant consultative status to 87 non-governmental organizations (see sect. I above, draft decision I).

III. REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

38. The Committee began its consideration of item 3 of its agenda at its 600th meeting, on 17 May 1996, and took note of the report of the Human Rights Advocates (category II). It decided to postpone further consideration of the item until the second part of the 1996 session.

** Subsequently, the Committee recommended that FAVDO be granted Roster status under the terms of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302 (see sect. I above, draft decision II).

39. At the second part of the session, the Committee decided to further postpone consideration of the item owing to lack of time.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL DECISION 1995/304

40. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 612th and 613th meetings, on 2 October 1996.

41. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Madagascar, Ireland, Tunisia, China, Costa Rica, Greece and the United States of America.

42. At the 613th meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation, while noting the Committee's extremely heavy workload for the session and the limited time available in which to successfully complete its work, expressed his objection regarding the proposals to conduct official meetings without interpretation services, and requested the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to ensure the availability of such services in the future.

43. The representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council also made a statement.

A. Format of documentation for the 1997 session

1. Applications for consultative status

44. The Committee agreed that the information submitted by non-governmental organizations would be circulated in the language of submission and that only the responses to questions 1-3, 6, 9 and 12 of the application questionnaire would be translated and reproduced as an official document of the Committee.

2. Requests for reclassification

45. The Committee agreed that the information submitted by non-governmental organizations would be circulated in the language of submission and that only the responses to questions 1-3, 6, 9 and 12 of the application questionnaire as well as the statement submitted by the non-governmental organization in support of its request for reclassification would be translated and reproduced as an official document of the Committee.

B. Future sessions

46. The Committee noted that it was necessary to revise the application questionnaire in the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, bearing in mind the need to streamline documentation and the increasing number of applications for consultative status.

47. The Committee agreed that the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would prepare a draft revised application questionnaire, which would be examined in an informal setting. The revised version of the questionnaire would then be adopted by the Committee in a formal meeting.

C. Documentation of the Committee

48. At the 609th meeting, the observer for France noted with surprise and regret that part of the official documentation under consideration by the Committee, namely, document E/1996/R.1/Add.3, was not available in French and asked the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to ensure that such an unfortunate situation did not recur.

49. At its 613th meeting, the Committee, noting that its documentation was issued in English, French and Spanish only, decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the documentation of the Committee be issued in all six official languages of the Council, from within the existing resources (see sect. I above, draft decision III).

50. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that he had agreed to such a draft decision, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to the position of his delegation in the Economic and Social Council where the resource implications of such a decision should be considered in the light of the statement from the Secretariat regarding the programme budget implications, which he assumed would be forthcoming in accordance with the Council's rules of procedure.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL DECISION 1996/302

51. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 611th meeting, on 30 August 1996.

52. The Committee had before it a list of organizations which had been on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and had indicated to the Committee their wish to expand their participation in other fields of the Council, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302.

53. The Committee decided that 70 non-governmental organizations be recommended for Roster status (see sect. I above, draft decision II).

VI. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE 1997 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

54. The Committee noted that the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, had approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee to be held in 1997 (Council decision 1995/306).

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

55. At its 611th meeting, on 30 August 1996, the Committee adopted the draft report contained in documents E/C.2/1996/L.2 and Add.1, as revised and amended during the discussion, and authorized the Rapporteur to complete it.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

56. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its 1996 session from 13 to 17 May, from 26 to 30 August and on 2 October 1996, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1996/209 of 9 February 1996. The Committee held 22 meetings (592nd to 613th meetings).

B. Attendance

57. The representatives of the following States members of the Committee attended: Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

58. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

59. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

60. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, attended the session: International Chamber of Commerce, World Federation of United Nations Associations.

C. Election of officers

61. At its 592nd meeting, on 13 May, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Fidel Coloma (Chile)

Vice-Chairmen: Valentin Hadjiiski (Bulgaria)
John D. Biggar (Ireland)
Wahid Ben Amor (Tunisia)

62. At its 596th meeting, on 15 May, the Committee elected by acclamation Gautam Mukhopadhaya (India) Vice-Chairman and decided that Wahid Ben Amor (Tunisia) would also serve as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

63. At its 592nd meeting, on 13 May, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its 1996 session as contained in document E/C.2/1996/1.

64. At its 602nd meeting, on 26 August, the Committee, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302 of 26 July 1996, decided to include in its agenda an additional item, entitled "Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302". The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations:

   (a) Application for consultative status deferred from the 1995 session of the Committee and application referred back to the Committee by the Economic and Social Council;

   (b) New applications for consultative status.

4. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II.

5. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1995/304.

6. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302.

7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 1997 session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS 1996 SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.2/1996/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda
E/C.2/1996/2	4	Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993
E/C.2/1996/3	4	Quadrennial reports: follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its resumed 1995 session
E/C.2/1996/INF/1	-	List of delegations
E/C.2/1996/L.2 and Add.1	8	Draft report
E/C.2/1996/L.3	5	United States of America: draft decision
E/C.2/1996/R.1 and Add.1-4	3 (b)	New applications for consultative status
E/C.2/1995/R.2/Add.23	3 (a)	Deferred applications for consultative status
E/C.2/1995/CRP.3	3 (a)	Deferred applications for consultative status

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